

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177707 TOSEC 080070
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 HA-05 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 PM-05 ICAE-00 L-03
OC-06 IO-13 SS-15 /073 R

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EUR;SOV - SMCCALL

PA/PRS - CSHAPIRO

HA - CBRODY

S/S-O - RCASTRODELE

-----006950 132328Z /75

O 132304Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177707 TOSEC 080070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, CSCE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON SOVIET TRIALS

REF: SECTO 8032

1. HAVING SEEN REFTEL WE ASSUME SECRETARY'S PARTY WILL DRAFT AND RELEASE STATEMENT IN SECRETARY'S NAME WHEN SHCHARANSKIY SENTENCE IS ANNOUNCED. WITH SECRETARY'S APPROVAL WE WOULD PLAN TO RELEASE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ABOUT ALL THREE HELSINKI MONITORING CASES (INCLUDING LITHUANIAN PETKUS WHO RECEIVED 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT JULY 12). FOLLOW-ING IS SUGGESTED STATEMENT FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN:

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2. "ALL AMERICANS AND PEOPLE OF GOODWILL EVERYWHERE ARE SADDENED AND APPALLED BY THE SENTENCING OF ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY, ALEKSANDR GINZBURG AND VIKTORAS PETKUS, THREE COURAGEOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE BEEN SECUTED AND ARE NOW TO BE SUBJECTED TO HARSH PUNISHMENT FOR CALLING UPON THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO LIVE UP TO THE OBLIGA-TIONS IT UNDERTOOK WHEN IT SIGNED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

THE THREE REMAIN INNOCENT BEFORE THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION,
HOWEVER, AND OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT FORGET THEM OR THEIR
WELLBEING." CHRISTOPHER

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